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DEAR SIR,AS A RETIRED FCC LICENSED BROADCAST ENGINEER, I HAVE A SERIOUS PROBLEM WITH ANYONE TRYING TO INTERFERE WITH ADVANCES BEING MADE BY ANY NEW TECHNOLOGY SUCH AS XM SATELLITE RADIO. THE ADDITION OF TRAFFIC AND WEATHER CHANNELS TO THE XM PROGRAMMING LINEUP SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED NOT DISCOURAGED. THIS IS A SAFETY ISSUE NOT A POLITICAL ISSUE. IF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS WANTS TO DO SOMETHING CONSTRUCTIVE, THEY WILL EXPIDITE AM AND FM DIGITAL RADIO WHICH SEEMS TO BE GOING NOWHERE. IN THIS COUNTRY YOU DON'T ATTEMPT TO PUT LEGAL RESTRAINTS ON YOUR COMPETITION, YOU FIND WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR OWN PRODUCT. AS SOMEONE WHO WORKED IN THE INDUSTRY, I HAVE SEEN FM GO FROM A HUGE SUCCESS TO A BROADCAST BAND OVERLOADED WITH COMMERCIALS AND RESTRICTED TO A VERY SHORT MUSIC PLAY LIST. PULL OUT SOME OLD BROADCAST TAPES FROM AM AND FM AND COMPARE.

IF WE'RE WILLING TO PAY A MONTHLY FEE TO XM TO ESCAPE WHAT AM AND FM HAVE BECOME, LEAVE IT ALONE. LET COMPETITION PROVIDE US ALL WITH A BETTER PRODUCTS-AM-FM-AND SATELLITE.

SINCERELY,

THOMAS F. DOLAN